

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3904

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 837

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0382

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, WA

SUBJECT: SWAPO TRIALS

REF: A) CAPE TOWN 0365; B) CAPE TOWN 0379

1. EZRIEL TAAPOPI, CHAIRMAN OF SWAPO YOUTH LEAGUE, AND JOSEPH KASHEA, ACTING SECRETARY OF THE LEAGUE, WERE FOUND GUILTY JULY 30, BY SWA SUPREME COURT JUDGE PRESIDENT BADENHORST (REF B). THEY HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH INCITEMENT TO MURDER, COMMIT VIOLENCE, AND CAUSE MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. BOTH YOUTH LEAGUE MEMBERS WERE SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT, OF WHICH THREE YEARS WERE CONDITIONALLY SUSPENDED.

2. ABOUT 60 BLACKS DEMONSTRATED BEFORE ENTRANCE TO HIGH COURT BUILDING IN WINDHOEK. ACCORDING TO CAPE TIMES, MANY HELD PLACARDS READING "VIVA NAMIBIA" AND VORSTER GET OUT -- MCBRIDE TAKE OVER." DEMONSTRATORS WERE PEACEFULLY DISPERSED AFTER BEING SPOKEN TO BY ARMED POLICE.

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3. RELIABLE SOURCE IN WINDHOEK TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE REGARDING APPEAL. LIMITED FUNDS FOR THIS AND OTHER SWAPO TRIALS WAS MENTIONED AS MAJOR CONSIDERATION FOR POSSIBLY NOT MAKING WHAT DEFENSE FEELS WOULD BE USEFUL APPEAL.

4. ATTEMPT OF DEFENSE IN THOMAS KAMATI CASE (REF A) TO HAVE HIS ORIGINAL PLEA OF GUILTY SET ASIDE WAS NOT ACCEPTED. AFFIDAVIT BY PSYCHOLOGIST REGARDING DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF LONG PERIODS OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ON PRISONERS IN GENERAL, AND KAMATI IN PARTICULAR, WAS INTRODUCED AS MITIGATING EVIDENCE PRIOR TO SENTENCING. PRESIDING JUDGE GAVE NO INDICATION WHEN HE WOULD GIVE HIS DECISION. HURD.

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Message Attributes

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